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Dossier on Human Rights Violations

Committed by the Indonesian Government

Prepared on the Occasion

of the

Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia

The Hague, 4-5 June, 1984

Part I ..... East Timor

Part II ..... West Papua and Papua New Guinea

Part III ..... Death Squads

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East Timor

On 1983 August 16 General Benny Murdani, Indonesian Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief, publicly announced a new offensive in East Timor, declaring that he would use "everything in the arsenal" and would show "no mercy" to those who opposed Indonesian occupation of East Timor. The offensive was supposed to crush resistance by October 5 (Armed Forces Day) but it was still going strong in February 1984, the latest directly available information. On December 25 General Murdani visited the territory and made a public appeal to "evryone in the hills, the forests, the caves and the towns to halt their efforts and surrender to the authorities" (Sinar Harapan, 1983 December 27).

In eight years of war, an estimated 200,000 people have died as a result of the Indonesian invasion and occupation, out of a pre-invasion population of just under 700,000.

Last May a new Apostolic Administrator, Monsignor Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, was appointed to replace Mgr da Costa Lopes, who had been forced to resign because of his outspokenness against the Indonesians. However, the new Bishop has himself condemned Indonesian atrocities and in February sent the following letter to his predecessor, who now lives in exile in Lisbon:-

"We are here in the worst socio-political conditions. As you know, from 8 August the situation deteriorated. They arrested people in all the postos (administrative centres) - 600 people in Dili alone - and they are now being charged in military courts. Others were made to disappear. We do not know if these courts are impartial and if they have defence witnesses. In the districts of Lospalos, Viqueque, Baucau and Ainaro, there is war, and the population is being coralled. They thought to end the affair by the end of December 1983 but we are already in February and there is no end in sight to the military operation. They have once again begun to mobilise the civilian populations in the districts of Covalima, Ainaro, Same, Manatuto, Baucau and Viqueque. It is amazing that with so many battalions, helicopters, tanks and bomber aircraft, they still need the support of the people. And there go the men, armed with daggers and knives, leaving their fields and gardens. Its a misery, Monsignor. The Red Cross does not enter the prisons, nor can I celebrate mass for the political detainees in Comarca Prison."

"In Muapitini (Lospalos) and Iliomar, 'popular' judgements have occurred, and those suspected of contacts with the bush were murdered in front of the people, stabbed with knives, chopped up,

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and beaten with sticks, even by their own families. It is a macabre situation in which we are living....."

"I ask you, to continue to pray for us and make an appeal to the free world to open its eyes to the brutalities of which the Indonesians are capable. The Church is being persecuted and accused; our schools are being searched and the students interrogated. The residence of the Salesian Fathers in Baucau was savagely searched by the nanggalas (knife carrying commando troops). Good Monsignor, I hope this letter reaches your hands....."

The appalling state of affairs described by Mgr Belo, at great risk both to himself and to the Church as a whole, cannot be ignored by the outside world, and particularly by the member governments of IGGI.

According to responsible observers, the Indonesians have had at least 12,000 troops in the territory since the offensive began (The Age, 1984 January 28), supported by F-5Es, OV-10 Broncos, A-4 Skyhawks, AMX tanks, armoured vehicles and other heavy equipment. Elite commando troops account for the bulk of the forces being used, unlike previous offensives when these forces were only used to spearhead attacks. This confirms that resistance is far stiffer than the authorities admit.

Foreign press reports generally confirm that the Indonesian army has encountered heavier resistance than expected, and has suffered serious losses. AFP (1984 February 19) quoted Indonesian military sources as saying: "The fighting is worse than expected", and their losses are "too high". The Toronto Globe and Mail (1984 February 10) referred to "tired pessimism" among military circles in Jakarta, and quoted a military analyst as saying:-

> "Its a running sore. They (the Indonesians) have tried the hearts and minds approach and it didn't wash. Now they have gone back to the big-stick policy and it doesn't seem to be working much better. This thing is going to go on and on until we all get old".

The most recent known report comes from a Dutch journalist in Jakarta (NRC Handelsblad 1984 March 3) who reported that heavy fighting was continuing, particularly in the mountains.

The offensive has severely disrupted food production. Church sources in Jakarta report (The Australian, 1984 January 6) that "crops have been destroyed and farmers have been unable to get to their fields or to forage food in the forests". AFP also reported

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that food shortages have intensified because refugees have flooded into centres like Viqueque. Letters reaching Timorese refugees in Lisbon state that a new displacement of people has resulted from commando troop operations to encircle and burn down strategic camps - set up by the Indonesians themselves in the late '70s - where support for the resistance is strong.

From December to March, seasonal food shortages occur, and in some regions there has been starvation in these months over the past few years. This year, the position was made even worse by the abandonment since last July of International Red Cross (ICRC) relief operations, because of the refusal by the authorities to grant access to all the villages and persons requesting its aid (Unpublished letter from the President of the ICRC, 1983 October 23).

Human rights violations have also worsened since the start of the 1983 offensive. Some details are given in the reports attached from The Age and The Australian. On February 20, aslo, Amnesty International launched an urgent action campaign on behalf of 23 Timorese who were arrested towards the end of 1983 and have since disappeared. Amnesty International have also received reports of many hundreds of new arrests since the August offensive was launched.

Timorese face starvation as military operations disrupt food production

AUSTRALIAN JAN 6, 84

From GILLES BERTIN in Jakarta

SEVERE food shortages have stricken parts of East Timor following recent Indonesian military operations against pro-independence guerillas in the former Portuguese colony, diplomatic and Catholic Church sources said.

The Indonesian Army began a counter-insurgency drive in August against the Revolutionary Front for the Liberation of East Timor (Fretilin), said to number a few hundred guerillas with fairly active local support.

An estimated 10,000-12,000 Indonesian troops, backed by helicopters, AMX tanks and counter-insurgency Bronco OV10-type aircraft, have been involved in operations in the territory, which Jakarta annexed by force in December, 1975.

Church sources said the military move had completely disrupted already precarious food supplies in the territory of 550,000 people, the majority of whom are Catholic.

Crops have been destroyed and farmers have been unable to get to their fields or to forage food in the forests, they said.

In the central region of Viqueque and the eastern region of Lospalos, food shortages have been aggravated by a flood of refugees, with about 3000 living around the city of Viqueque.

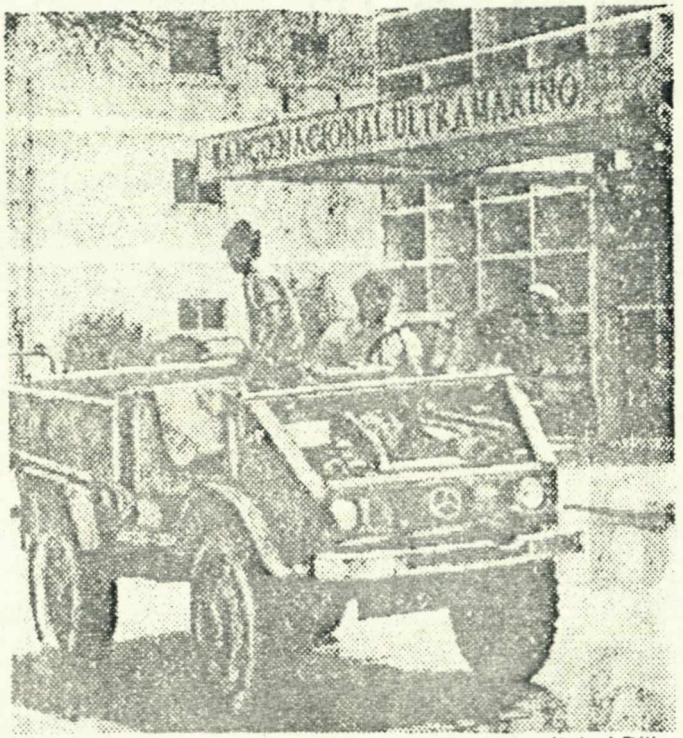
The serious scarcity of food in various areas has been confirmed by diplomatic and other sources here.

In a confidential letter dated late last month, the papal administrator in the East Timor capital of Dili, Monsignor Carlos Filipe Ximines Belo, expressed concern over the problem of hunger and food shortages.

Monsignor Belo, 35, generally considered a moderate, took over as papal administrator in May from the popular Monsignor da Costa Lopes, known for his opposition to the "Indonesianisation" of East Timor.

The move was interpreted as a goodwill gesture towards Jakarta by the Vatican. But reliable sources here said the new papal representative later received a written warning from the local religious affairs office following a sermon in October in which he protested the "arrests and violence in East Timor".

However, on November 17 the Conference of Indonesian Bishops, often considered close to the local authorities, sent a six-page letter to Timorese clergy assuring them of their support and calling for the respect of human rights in East Timor.



INDONESIAN troops patrol the East Timor capital of Dili

Arrests

"We have met in our hearts with all, but especially with those who have lost parents, children, relatives and friends, with those who have lost their possessions, with those who have lost any source of income and even with those who have lost their lives," the bishops said.

It was the first time the Conference of Indonesian Bishops had expressed in an open letter their concern over the situation on East Timor as they urged officials to work in a "spirit of honesty" to resolve the situation.

Meanwhile, arrests have continued: 600 people were brought in for questioning recently in Dili, 125 in Baucau and 34 in Viqueque, well-informed sources said.

Eight schoolchildren, aged 14-15, were arrested in Viqueque and held "for several days in a room so narrow they could not sleep", said one Catholic source.

Dozens of people, including three children, were hauled away by unknown abductors in civilian clothes, the sources said.

They expressed fear that those abducted could meet the same fate as the 3000-4000 presumed criminals who have been executed by the "mystery killers" stalking the entire archipelago since April.

About 130 auxiliary Timorese troops attached to the Indonesian Army were disarmed and arrested, the sources said. Ninety were still in custody and the fate of the others was not known. In August, 86 militiamen deserted with their weapons to join Fretilin.

The toll of clashes between the Indonesian Army and Fretilin is extremely difficult to establish since the military operations remain top secret in Jakarta, where rumors circulate of big battles.

The army commander-in-chief, General Benny Murdani, a Catholic, made a Christmas appeal to Fretilin guerillas "in the mountains, in the jungles, in the grottos and the cities" to give themselves up.

East Timor is completely cut off from the rest of the world and special authorisation is required to visit or even telephone there.

The United States military attache in Jakarta travelled to the territory last month at the personal invitation of General Murdani, diplomatic sources said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been barred for "security reasons" from the interior. It can send representatives only to Dili and the island of Atauro, off the provincial capital where about 2100 prisoners, presumed Fretilin sympathisers, are confined.

The Red Cross continues its program to reunite families and about a dozen Timorese were able to emigrate legally to Portugal recently.

The diplomatic impasse on East Timor remains, as the United Nations, which does not recognise Indonesia's annexation of the territory, pursues its efforts to resolve the more than eight-year-old problem.

● Meanwhile, in Jakarta, the Dutch Foreign Minister, Mr Hans van den Broek, said Indonesian officials assured him the death squad executions of thousands of alleged gangsters would be stopped.

Unofficial sources have estimated 4000 suspects were killed in 1983 in a crackdown on crime.

Agence France Presse

SINGAPORE, 27 Dec. — Indonesia's Armed Forces commander-in-chief, General Benny Murdani, has said anti-Government guerillas who surrender in East Timor will be humanely treated.

But General Murdani also warned that his troops were determined to maintain peace and security in the territory.

Jakarta reinforced its soldiers in East Timor after a series of clashes in August with guerillas of the Fretilin independence movement which the Government says were initiated by the rebels.

Informed sources said recently that one of those injured in the fighting was President Suharto's son-in-law, who was an Army officer serving in Timor.

Indonesia's official news agency, Antara, said today General Murdani, in a message to the territory which was incorporated as a province in 1976, urged guerillas to stop daydreaming and surrender.

He was speaking shortly after the eighth anniversary of Indonesia's military occupation of the disputed Portuguese territory.

General Murdani, a Roman Catholic who celebrated Christmas with his soldiers in East Timor, urged guerillas to join the rest of the Indonesian people in building a just and prosperous society.

— Michael Richardson

Age Dec 27, 83

12,000 Indon troops in big sweep across Timor

The Age, 28 January 1984

From JILL JOLLIFFE

LISBON, 27 Jan. — Twelve thousand Indonesian troops set up a north-south cordon across Timor and swept eastwards against Fretilin guerillas, according to a coded message from Fretilin which has reached Lisbon.

The eight-page document from Fretilin leader Jose Gusmao Sha na Na said the Indonesian troops were backed by air and naval bombardments.

The document, dated 21 December was smuggled from the embattled territory, and reached Lisbon early this week. It said the Indonesian forces had set up a line from Baucau to Viqueque in November and December and were advancing east.

It said most of Fretilin's counter-attacks were concentrated on the south coast zone around Viqueque and Barique.

The arrival of the document demonstrates that Fretilin has succeeded in keeping its communication lines open to overseas representatives, despite the Indonesian offensive first begun in August. A Fretilin delegate in Lisbon, Abilio Araujo, said his organisation's main efforts after the offensive were directed at protecting communication lines. "Because of the large-scale police activity in Timor when the offensive began — arrests and searches — Fretilin made a conscious decision to suspend communications in August, September and October," he said. "Communications are continuing, but with difficulty."

Many Timorese refugees, Fretilin and non-Fretilin, have also received letters recently. Five letters, two written from Dili and three from Jakarta, by three different authors, correspond in their general description of a massive operation involving Indonesian troops supported by air and sea bombardment concentrated mainly in the east and on the central south coast, which Fretilin has successfully resisted to date. All speak of arrests and disappearances of Timorese suspected of supporting Fretilin.

The document from Sha Na Na, handwritten with a felt-tip pen in numbered code on eight pages of flimsy airmail paper, lists a series of engagements between the guerillas and Indonesian regular troops, including ambushes by Falintil (the Fretilin army), according to the decoded version made available by Abilio Araujo. For example:

"On 6 December, the 6th company of Falintil attacked an armored military column proceeding along the Zumalai-Mape road. The surprise attack caused a high rate of enemy casualties and the destruction of two assault cars which escorted the column. Only the intervention of enemy aircraft, bombers and helicopters to evacuate the wounded, forced the retreat and dispersal of the Falintil unit. . ."

The Fretilin leader describes similar attacks in the Alas, Fatuberliu, Barique and Hatu Builico areas.

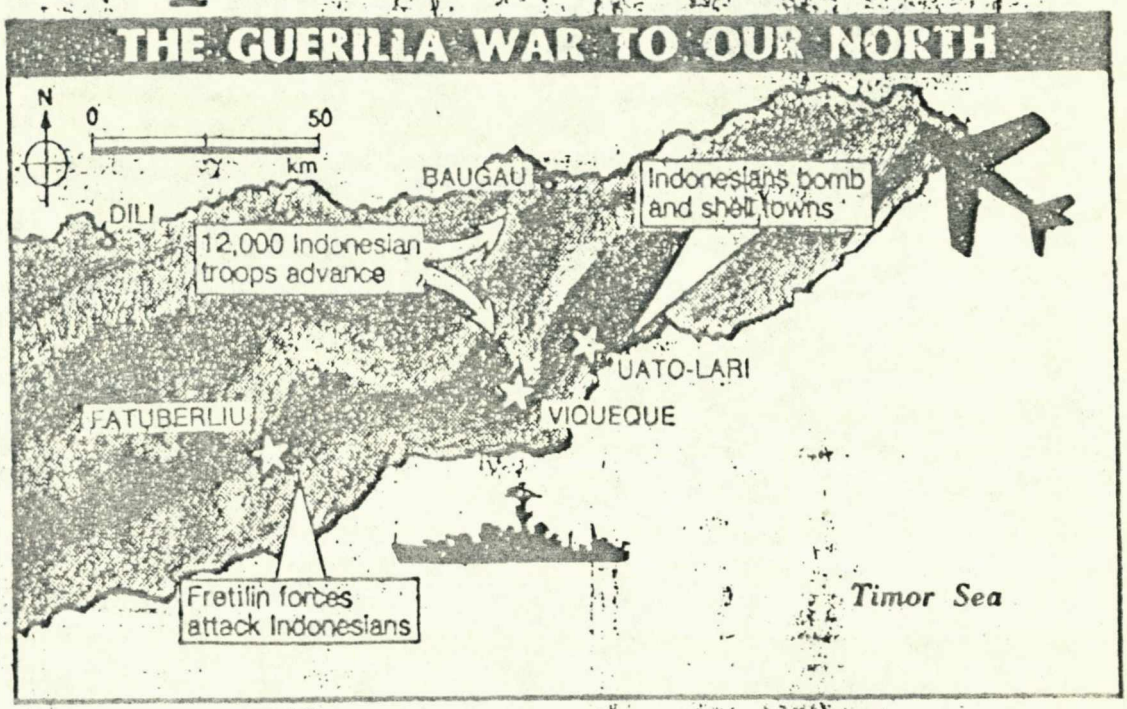
The Eastern zone, which was a key area for Fretilin guerillas before the offensive began, appears to be the scene of intense Indonesian action. According to Sha Na Na, in the period 20 November to 10 December "the invading forces used a massive and indiscriminate air bombardment against civilian and economic targets in the areas of Laga, Viqueque, Uato-Lari, Luro, Venilale and Fuiloro where thousands of people are gathered, living in deficient food and sanitary conditions".

The theme of arrests and disappearances is constant in the private letters coming from Timorese. Amnesty International, which has been monitoring the offensive closely, has a growing list of people who were arrested after the offensive began and have not been seen since. One letter from a non-Fretilin source in Dili, dated 12 October 1983, reported: "Timor is now in a state of great insecurity, especially in the east. The Javanese have removed prisoners from the Comarca prison and are sending them to other parts."

Another dated 13 January, written from Jakarta, reads: "Everything is more complicated, more confused, more exhausting, in the widest sense. . . the Red Cross are now only allowed to work in Atauro: the program elsewhere is cancelled. Little can be done to help. The Catholic church is passing through difficult moments. The military are making life hell for them. Many prisoners are sent to Bali to be interrogated. Some have returned to Timor, but nothing is known of the others. Over 2000 prisoners are still on Atauro. I point out that Bali is the tourist centre of Indonesia . . . whose special market is Australia. If you start a political campaign about the prisoners in Bali maybe the Australian Government will take this into consideration."

A letter written by the same author a week earlier lists some of the prisoners whose cases are being followed by Amnesty International: Octavio Jordao de Araujo, Elder Jordao de Araujo, who are brothers, and Francisco Calcona.

Continued: PAGE 7



FROM PAGE 1

It continues to say that in the mountain areas around Viqueque Indonesian soldiers are "doing what they like" with 14-year-old girls, and that "it's the same in Lospalos. Couples who are suspected are dying in each other's embrace in common graves, riddled with bullets. The least suspicions lead to liquidation".

A letter written on 6 January notes that "Radio Australia has finally realised that Viqueque and Lospalos are the zones worst-hit by the military operation. . . in these respective regions there are about 12,000-15,000 soldiers concentrated with heavy arms (tanks, bombers, warships), continuing to kill civilians. Through the infamous Lieutenant-Colonel Iswanto (former commander of operations) we learnt that the situation in Timor has deteriorated, that Fretilin killed soldiers from Koromil and Camat in Laclúta. . . and that the fighting in the east has intensified, resulting in the defection of 269 armed militia from the Ratih units to Fretilin. . . the military has decided to continue the operation for some months more. They want to finish it off once and for all".

A representative of a US Congressman, Tony Hall, has been gathering testimony about the offensive from Timorese refugees in Lisbon. After a week of intensive interviewing Mr Marty Rendon said he was surprised by the amount of detailed information available and the scope of the Indonesian operation. He said refugees who had arrived recently from Dili had described a massive influx of troops and equipment in August. He said he had also obtained evidence contradicting earlier reports that a Fretilin attack on an Indonesian post in Viqueque in mid-August was the motive for the offensive. Refugees had told him that Governor Mario Carrascalao had briefed members of his staff on the military operation in late July, warning them to be careful, "Because even I won't be able to help you when it begins".

Congressman Hall, of Daytona, Ohio, has led efforts to raise the Timor issue in the US Congress, resulting recently in a letter to President Reagan signed by 105 Congressmen from both major parties.

JAN 27 1984

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(Melbourne)

THE AGE, Monday 6 February 1984 — 3

Timor prisoners tortured for talking: Fretilin

By OLGA FERNLEY

The commandant of East Timor's Atauro Island prison tortured prisoners who handed a message to visiting Portuguese journalists last year, according to a letter just received in Australia from Fretilin.

The letter, signed by the Fretilin leader on East Timor, Jose Gusmao Xanana, and dated 25 July 1983, names Alberto da Conceicao and Jaime Segueira as inmates of Atauro Island who were tortured after communicating with journalists on 15 February, 1983. It says they and two others had not been released from Atauro Island after being beaten.

The letter, addressed to the president of the Australia-East Timor Association, Mr George Preston, is believed to be the first direct written communication from the Fretilin leader to an Australian organisation.

Written just before the start of the present Indonesian offensive in East Timor, the letter forecasts the "arrival of re-inforcements of 10 more battalions". (A later coded message from Fretilin, dated 21 December and arriving in Lisbon on 27 January, described military operations by 12,000 Indonesian troops in East Timor.)

The four-page letter, written on airmail paper, was smuggled out of Timor and sent to Lisbon before being sent to Melbourne. It refers to hunger, persecution, and disappearances. "Even in late last May, Joao Soriano, who was in Jakarta, was called to Dili and brutally beaten and menaced," the letter says.

Mr Xanana appeals to the Australian Government for greater involvement in the search for a "just and correct solution to the problem of East Timor".

The letter to the association, whose members include the Waterside Workers Federation, the Tramways Union and the Miscellaneous Workers Union, may have been prompted by the visit of an Australian Parliamentary delegation to East Timor at the time it was written.

The delegation, headed by Mr Bill Morrison (Labor, NSW), found there was no evidence of human rights violations in East Timor. A left-wing Labor senator, Senator McIntosh, dissented from the delegations's report.

Senator McIntosh said the delegation had ignored evidence that scores of Timorese had been captured and tortured by Indonesians.

Mr Preston said the association was delighted to have received a personal communication from the Fretilin leader. He said he wanted to draw to the Australian Government's attention Mr. Xanana's plea for greater Australian involvement in the search for a peaceful solution in East Timor.

He said Fretilin communications with the outside world during the present offensive had been greatly hampered by their need to protect remaining channels of communication, which were of long-term importance to Fretilin.

In his letter, Mr Xanan approves proposals put forward by Mr Preston for a solution to the struggle in East Timor. Mr Preston said he believed this was a reference to a talk he gave on Radio Australia, which Fretlin monitors from their mountain camps.

JILL JOLLIFFE, in Lisbon, reports on Indonesia's new attempt to end nine years of resistance

Jakarta's hard men march on Timor's revolution

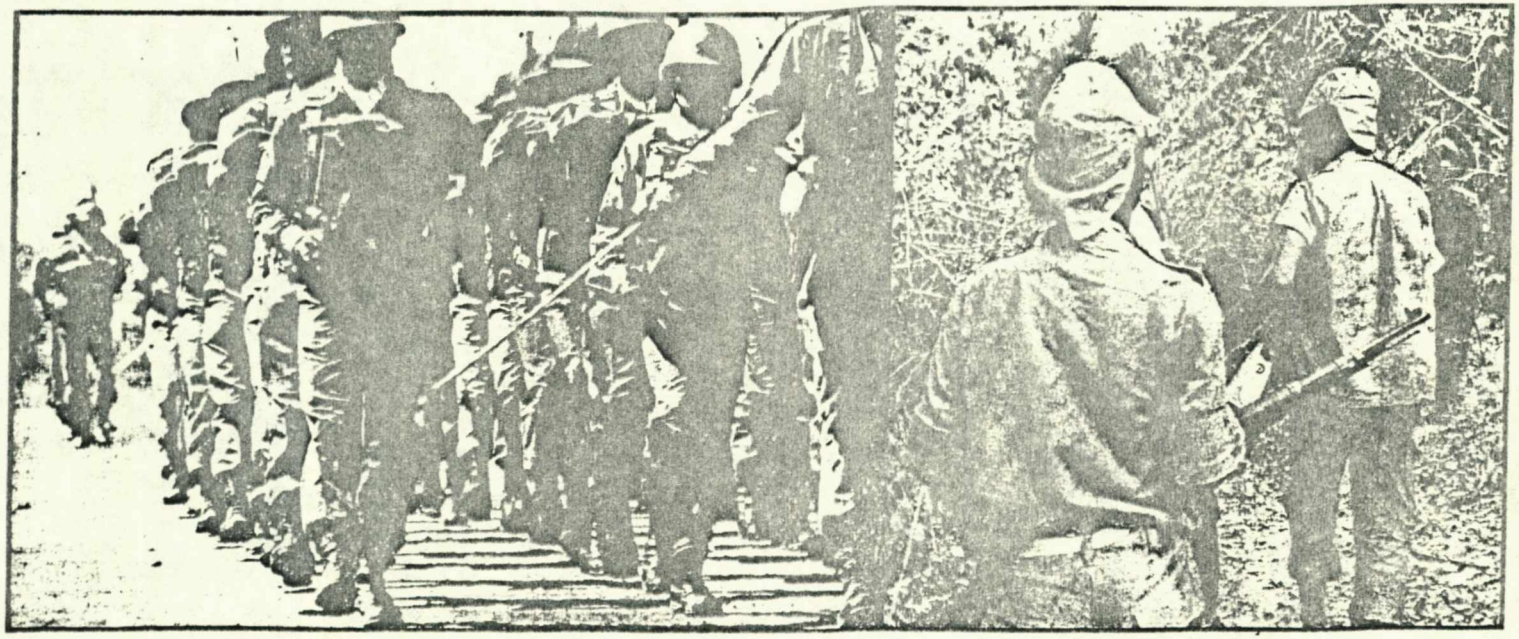
EAST Timorese refugees who recently arrived in Portugal have described a full-scale Indonesian attack on their homeland, which has been the scene of a guerrilla war since 1975, when Indonesian troops invaded the former Portuguese colony.

The current offensive began in August, soon after the Indonesian Army Minister, Benny Murdani, announced that Indonesian troops would "liquidate" the resistance movement led by Fretilin (the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor). There had been a brief unofficial truce between Fretilin and the Indonesian army in early 1983.

Since 1975 about one-third of East Timor's population of 650,000 is believed to have perished as a result of bombardment, executions, and starvation induced by the war. Amnesty International, which has been monitoring the current offensive, has a growing list of Timorese who have disappeared without trace.

"Every day planes and ships brought more soldiers, mostly red berets, and every day more Timorese were arrested and taken away, supposedly to Bali," Antonio, a recent arrival said. Like most Timorese, he is afraid to talk freely for fear of reprisals against his family, and asked that his full name not be used. "We saw bombers flying in formation over Dili (the capital), towards the east, where the guerrillas are holding out," he claimed.

According to Antonio and other refugees, martial law was imposed in September and Indonesian troops conducted a house-to-house search in Dili, and arrested those suspected of supporting Fretilin. They compare the situation with the initial invasion in 1975, when an estimated 40,000 troops were used. One significant difference about this offensive — there have been various others since 1975, but none on this scale — is that red beret commandos from the Java-based Khopassanda regiment are being used as the basic fighting force, whereas they are normally employed as shock troops backed by other units. This measure follows years of experiments with Timorese militia units, which failed, due to their constant defection to Fretilin with weapons. During 1982 and early 1983 the resistance reorganised under the young guerrilla leader, Jose Gusmao Sha Na Na.



Indonesia sends in its crack troops, above, but Fretilin guerrillas, right, are not ready for liquidation.

The refugees report that the resistance is holding out well, although the civilian population is suffering terribly. The red berets are reportedly burning villages systematically, and several massacres have been reported, such as at Luca, in the south-east, in November, when several hundred villagers were shot.

The Indonesian conference of bishops recently broke a long silence on the Timor issue, to back the Bishop of Dili, Msgr. Carlos Ximenes Belo, who preached a sermon criticising the Indonesian offensive. Until now neither the Vatican nor the Indonesian Church has solidly backed the East Timorese, many of whom are Catholics.

The Indonesian offensive coincided with a state visit by Portugal's President Eanes to the US, where East Timor was one of the topics he discussed with President Reagan. He left Washington with little reason for optimism. The US is Indonesia's main arms supplier and is too concerned with its diminishing influence, post-Vietnam, in South-East Asia to risk strains with its principal ally in the region. The refugees have described the generous deployment of American weapons — Hercules transports supplied by the US brought the reinforcements to Dili, V-150 Commando armoured cars, bought recently, patrol the capital and OV10 Bronco aircraft supplied after 1975 bomb guerrilla positions.

In spite of apparent American unconcern, East Timor has some strategic importance for the Pentagon. The Indonesian archipelago, stretching from Sumatra, south of the Malayan peninsula, to West Irian, north of Australia, shields access from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean. There are four straits in this zone used by the US Poseidon, and Polaris nuclear submarine fleets: the Malacca, Lombok, Sunda, and Ombai-Wetar straits. According to R. G. Boyd, of the Canadian Defence Department in a 1977 paper on the military importance of these straits, the Malacca and Sunda passages are not reliable because they are too shallow, and Malacca is overcrowded with sea traffic. This makes Ombai-Wetar and Lombok essential to US strategy. He rated them, with Gibraltar, as the most crucial deep-water straits in the world in American defence planning.

The Ombai-Wetar straits run within the boundaries of the former Portuguese territory of East Timor. During The Salazar dictatorship, the Pentagon had no concern about their security. Not only was Portugal a member of Nato, as it still is, but Dr Salazar was hardly sympathetic to Communists.

Portugal's 1974 revolution aroused fears that the influence of revolutionary Portuguese officers — close to the pro-Moscow Portuguese Communist Party — might take root in an independent Timor, threatening the secure passage of their submarines. This is one of the reasons the US and its regional ally Australia refused from the outset to contemplate self-determination for East Timor, although Fretilin has consistently espoused a foreign policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence with Jakarta.

Washington's support for Indonesia has been the main reason for the failure of Portugal's attempts to enlist Western democratic support for the Timor case, especially among its European allies. Although the UN has approved resolutions condemning the Indonesian occupation every year since 1975 (recently in rather diluted terms), Fretilin's main support apart from Portugal is drawn from Third World countries, notably the ex-African colonies.

Timorese face trial for treason after ambush

Jakarta, Mar 13.

Forty residents of East Timor will be tried soon for alleged treason against the Indonesian Government in the former Portuguese colony, sources close to the Army said today.

The sources said 12 other East Timorese citizens had already been convicted on similar charges.

Most of the Timorese are charged with involvement in an ambush on August 8, when 16 Indonesian soldiers — 15 Army engineers and a medic — were killed at Cracas, near Viqueque.

A military operation was launched in reaction to the ambush, and more than 50 Timorese were arrested.

The captured Timorese were described as members of the anti-Indonesia leftwing Fretilin movement, which wants independence for East Timor.

Fretilin is a Portuguese acronym for Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor.

Indonesia incorporated East Timor in July 1976 following a civil war between Fretilin and pro-Indonesia factions.

Indonesian officials have estimated that 200 to 300 armed Fretilin guerillas remain in hiding in the mountains of East Timor.

The sources also said the Government will soon release scores of prisoners in the East Timor capital of Dili and the island of Atauro, 15 km from Dili.

In Lisbon, a group of prominent Portuguese citizens, including a former prime minister and more than a fifth of Portugal's parliamentary deputies, have signed an open letter urging US President Ronald Reagan to work for an easing of tension in East Timor.

The Indonesian sources said the situation in East Timor had returned to normal since the August incident.

The International Committee for the Red Cross had been allowed to go around to do its work in Dili and Atauro, and the Red Cross's area of operations would be expanded by July, the sources said.

While Indonesia claims that Fretilin poses no military threat, its continued resistance has been an international embarrassment.

At the United Nations General Assembly in 1982, 50 countries voted for a resolution condemning Indonesia's intervention in East Timor while 46 countries opposed it.

Indonesia scored a diplomatic victory last year when the assembly decided to postpone a vote on the issue.

—AP.

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST
MARCH 14
ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH

East Timor's chronicle of brutality

(LONDON OBSERVER SERVICE)

Refugees who have managed to escape from the Indonesian-ruled territory of East Timor report brutality, repression and hunger on an unprecedented scale since Jakarta launched a new offensive last autumn.

Many refugees are reluctant to discuss their experiences. Those who left with the help of the International Red Cross had to sign Indonesian papers saying they understood that if they talked about Timor abroad, their families at home would suffer.

Those who escape illegally are terrified for their families and the people who helped them flee.

One woman who has just arrived in Lisbon said Indonesian troops — supported by tanks, planes and helicopters — were everywhere in the towns and the countryside searching for rebels and their suspected supporters.

Farmers could not work in the fields because of the military operations and there was widespread hunger.

A refugee priest, who fled because he was on an Indonesian extermination list as a Fretilin sympathiser, said disease was rampant because medical supplies were not being distributed.

"People are dying from dysentery and cholera — they have no strength to resist disease," he said.

From MADELEINE PROWSE in Lisbon

The refugees say the Indonesians are systematically eliminating all Fretilin sympathisers and their families down to the fourth generation — grandmother and grandchildren.

In their last report on East Timor, Amnesty International quoted a former member of Indonesian intelligence on torture used on prisoners before killing.

"During the interrogations they were normally tortured, especially if the interrogators thought they were Fretilin soldiers or leaders.

"They would be tortured by hitting them with a blunt instrument, by jabbing lit cigarettes into their faces around the mouth or by giving them electric shocks, sometimes on the genitals," the report said.

The new Government offensive has also brought thousands of Indonesian civilians to the territory, taking over all the key posts in administration and commerce, in an attempt to crush the Timorese eight-year resistance by smothering their culture and language.

The priest, who bears deep scars around the eyes as a result of Indonesian beatings during interrogation, said no schools were now using the native Tetum language and there was only one, run by the Church, teaching in Portuguese.

He said most churches in the predominantly Roman Catholic territory had been closed and their clergy intimidated or threatened by the Muslim invaders.

Children of East Timor — widespread starvation is reported.

One of his closest colleagues had been taken prisoner and his whereabouts were unknown.

When Indonesia seized East Timor, an island rich in potential offshore oil supplies, shortly after Portugal withdrew in 1975, the population stood at 650,000.

By 1980, war, hunger and disease had diminished it to about 450,000.

Today it stands at 500,000 because of the Indonesian influx.

Because of Jakarta's tight hold on East Timor, information is scarce.

The International Red Cross stopped work there in July, a month before the Government offensive began.

This was after it had been told that most parts of the country were out of bounds.

Refugees in Lisbon say the armed forces control all communications and troops deliver any mail.

Letters to addresses outside Indonesia rarely arrive.

Fretilin has managed to smuggle out a coded communique written by its military leader Mr Jose Gusmo Sha Na Na.

It describes bombing and a concentration of troops in a line from Viqueque to Baucau on the north coast.

It also tells of a series of Fretilin attacks which killed 12 Indonesian soldiers.

An American congressman, Mr Tony Hall of Dayton, recently visited Portugal to collect information from refugees.

He gathered 115 congressional signatures on a letter to President Ronald Reagan calling for urgent action.

The United States, like most other Western countries, has largely ignored the remote island people's plight, preferring not to upset relations with powerful and oil-rich Indonesia, their greatest anti-communist champion in the Far East.

Letter from East Timor (1)

The situation is extremely bad. Genocide of the population in what is truly a concentration camp continues. Each settlement is nothing but an enclosure where the military can choose who they want to kill or torture. They pay generous sums of money to spies to get them to accuse anyone they wish to eliminate. This kind of warfare is being practised everywhere. Another kind is when the invaders are subject to surprise attacks on the roads by active, tough resistance fighters, or to surprise attacks on the military posts where they are stationed and several of the occupants are killed. In less than a month (from the end of February to the middle of March), they buried about 50 inhabitants in a single region (Ainaro-Sune) which is by no means the worst region. This is just one indication of the violence with which the fighting is proceeding.

At the beginning of this month, the local military commander announced that he was giving the resistance an ultimatum of one month to surrender, and if they did not do so, everyone would be killed. They are also infuriated because the Church has not called on the resistance to surrender (which would only result, as always, in their being killed). Because of this, three important missions have been subjected to intense intimidation by the occupying forces. They have prevented the priests from moving and carried off catechists; they have beaten up the teachers and pupils of the mission schools. They have destroyed the residence of one of the main missions on the pretext that they discovered a transmitter of the resistance in the building. They are more and more openly adopting an attitude of persecution towards the Church; this is not persecution by Muslims but by the government in order to conquer this piece of land. And the real reason is that the Church will not cooperate in inducing people to surrender as a way of accelerating the genocide of the population.

In many settlements, they are forcing the population to kill people inside their own settlements (...) They display an intense hatred for the local culture and for education in the Portuguese language and even go after people for greeting them with the words 'bons dias' ('good-day' in Portuguese).

There are soldiers everywhere yet they announced that a dozen more battalions are coming, to launch a massive operation of extermination in the coming few weeks. Who can it be who is helping them to escape from this dreadful degree of crimes and genocide which disgraces the reputation of their own country and is reducing our formerly happy people to a heap of corpses. At the very least, churches throughout the world should show solidarity for these martyrs.

March 1984.

Letter from East Timor (2)

We declare that on 1 February 1984, there was a violent persecution of the population of Bobonaro. The people most severely struck were the populations of Cara-Bau, Cota-Boot, Coli-Mau and Mali-Ubo in the region of Hauba, the administrative post of Bobonaro. From 1 - 13 February, they (the Indonesian troops) began to hunt down and arrest people. On 14 February, they began to massacre the prisoners.

At first they arrested two hansip (civil guard) members who had fought on their side for the past eight years, as well as a community figure who was suspected. The red-berets (paracommando Kopassandha troops) tortured the two hansips with nails, , cigarettes and razor-blades, and killed t em both. They did not kill the community figure but broke his leg by striking it hard. He was then taken to the kecamatan sub-district (administration) office in Bobonaro and made to sit at the door of the koramil (military sub-district command) where he was ordered to identify people passing on the road. Whenever he pointed at anyone and said, 'that person collaborates with the guerrillas', the person was captured and killed without further investigation. In the month of February alone, more than fifty people were killed. But it is being said that the military plan to kill altogether 167 people in this zone. Only then; they say, will they be able to re-establish peace.

A pupil of the mission school who attends the SMP (Indonesian lower middle school) lost his father and two uncles. All three were murdered by the military. Then, this school-boy whose name is Pedro , being full of anguish and sorrow, went to complain to the red-berets. Their response was to tie a rope round his neck and hang him on a tree. This is how the young Pedro, pupil of the SMP at Bobonaro, died for having wept for the death of his father.

In the region of Hauba, they have forced the population to build new roads into the mountains. The troops take advantage of this forced labour to capture and kill some of the forced labourers. The families of those who were murdered - their mothers, spouses, children - have been concentrated in the town. Some of those who were to have been killed escaped and fled. In these cases, the whole family are suspected (of helping) the escape.

All homes are under surveillance, and the composition of each family is counted and compared with the number of inhabitants inside the house. If there are more inhabitants than members of the family or more members of the family than inhabitants, they are also suspected.

Starting on 4 or 5 March for 4 days, they will organise a festival for the people to swear loyalty to the military !